

## Flax leaf broom

### *Genista linifolia*

January 2015

Flax leaf broom is a large shrub, introduced to Australia as a garden ornamental and hedge.

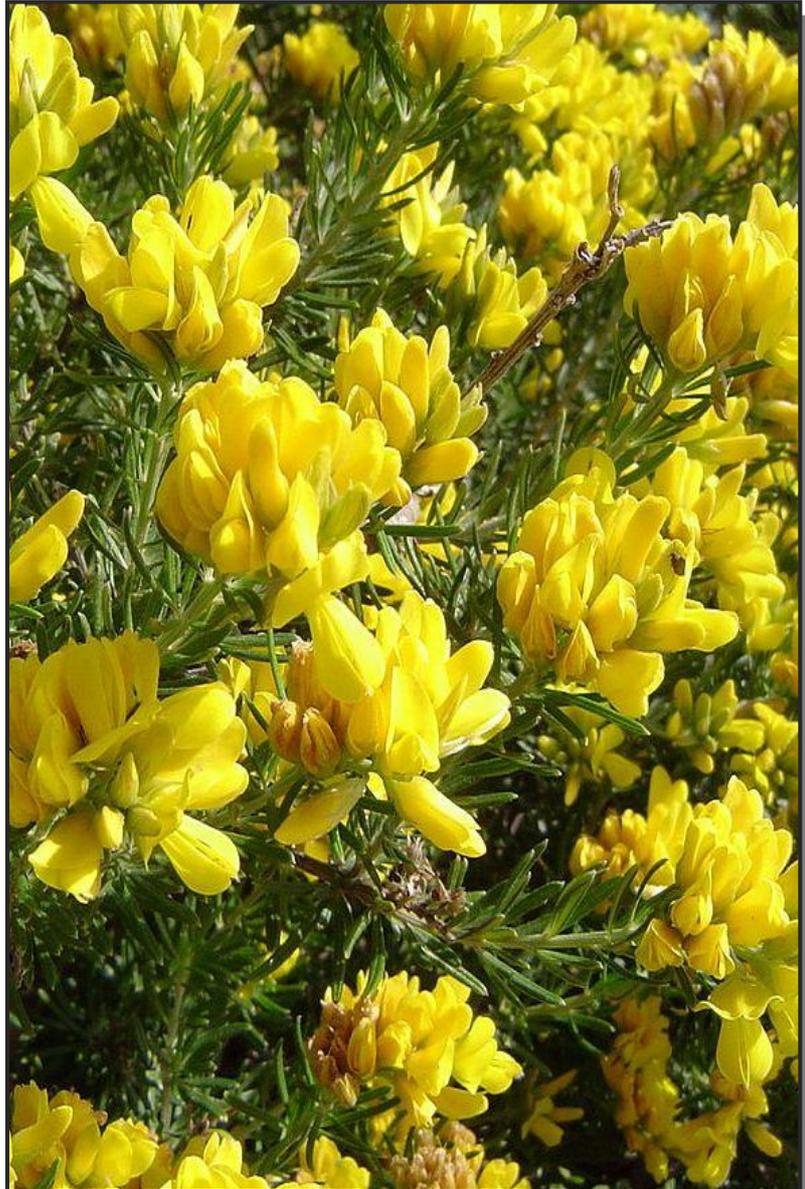
Flax leaf broom is a Weed of National Significance (WoNS) and is declared under the *Natural Resources Management Act 2004*; its sale is prohibited and land owners may be required to control infestations.

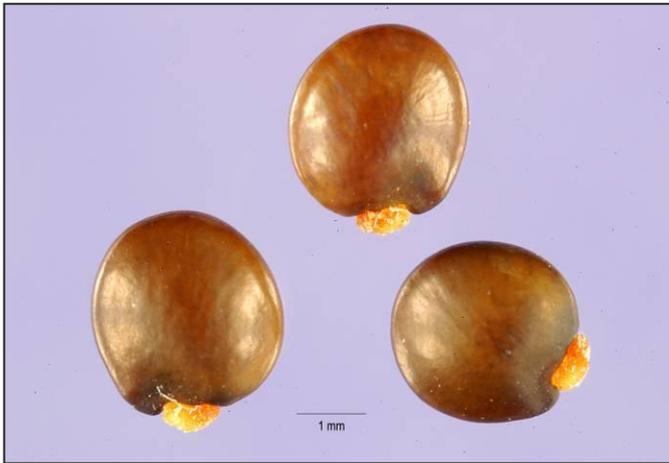
- **Other common names:** flax-leaved broom, flax broom, Mediterranean broom
- **Family:** Fabaceae
- **Synonyms:** *Cytisus linifolius*, *Teline linifolia*
- **Origin:** Western Mediterranean
- **Similar species:** Cape broom (*G. monspessulana*) and Madeira broom (*G. stenopetala*).

#### WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

Flax leaf broom is an environmental weed of the Adelaide region.

- forms dense thickets that reduce grazing area
- harbours pest animals
- excludes native vegetation and impedes regeneration
- can encourage other weeds to invade, as it increases soil fertility by fixing nitrogen





## DESCRIPTION

**Habit:** erect or spreading shrub up to 3 m high, but commonly around 1.5 m. **Root:** branched taproot with many shallow, lateral roots. **Stems:** brownish-green and ridged longitudinally. **Leaves:** light green, three linear-lanceolate leaflets with rolled edges. **Seeds/fruit:** 2 – 4 greenish-brown seed are contained in narrow, oblong shaped, grey-black silky pods up to 2 cm long. **Flowers:** bright yellow, pea-like on short stalks, and clustered at the end of branchlets. *Flowering time:* spring

## HOW IT SPREADS

Flax leaf broom is spread by seed, which are catapulted up to 3 metres from the ripe pods in summer. It is also spread long distances via contaminated produce, vehicles, machinery, water, birds, animals and dumping of garden waste.

## HABITAT

Flax leaf broom occurs in temperate regions on acidic soils with moderate rainfall. It invades disturbed sites, drains, open woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and along fence lines and roadsides where it encroaches into pastures and reserves.

## DISTRIBUTION

Flax leaf broom is naturalised in the Eyre Peninsula, Northern Lofty, and Southern Lofty regions. Also naturalised in Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania.

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Seek control advice if you have this weed. Select alternatives to replace invasive garden plants. Read 'Grow Me Instead' for suggestions. Further information is at [www.weeds.org.au/WoNS](http://www.weeds.org.au/WoNS).

Seeds image courtesy of Tracey Slotta @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database. Flower and ribbed stem images, courtesy of Xemenendura, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.1 Spain

## For more information

Contact your local Natural Resources Centre for information on controlling declared weeds:

[www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au](http://www.naturalresources.sa.gov.au)

Further weed control information is also available at:

[www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa](http://www.pir.sa.gov.au/biosecuritysa)

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